

River Valley Board of Education
RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
15480 Three Oaks Road
Three Oaks, Michigan 49128
www.rivervalleyschools.org

Regular Meeting – RV Middle/High School Library
Monday, July 18, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Members Present: J. C. German, Michael Ehlert, Victoria Pfauth, Ronald Petro, Blane Hillman, Fred Knutel, Vickie Wagner

Members Absent: None

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President German.

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance

President German led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 Provide Oath of Office to Board Members

Business Manager Capiak administered the Oath of Office to Trustees Michael Ehlert and Jon Corey German.

4.0 Consider Approval of Agenda as Presented

German proposed reversing the order of Agenda Items 7.1 and 7.3.
Motion by Petro, supported by Hillman, to approve the agenda as presented with the reversal of Items 7.1 and 7.3. All ayes. Motion carried.

5.0 Public Comment on Agenda

There was no public comment on the Agenda.

6.0 Consider Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2011 (Open and Closed Sessions)

Motion by Ehlert, supported by Petro, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2011 (Open and Closed Sessions). All ayes. Motion carried.

7.0 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Kearney announced that Mr. Schroeder would present the RV Hall of Fame Award.

7.1 Hear Presentation on Proposed Secondary Language Arts Curriculum

Mrs. Maloney presented a proposed new secondary Language Arts curriculum. Members of the Language Arts Committee are: Marie Maloney, Heather Caid, Deb Wegner, Richard Gedert, Eric Munyon, Sharon Noland, and Julia Pincek. The program selected is the Prentice Hall literature series. Grades six through eleven will have new literature books. In order to align with the Michigan Merit curriculum, American literature will be taught at the tenth grade level, British literature will be taught at the eleventh grade level, and twelfth graders will study novel units rather than an anthology of literature. Grades 7 through 11 will receive a classroom set of grammar books. The Spanish program has also been updated to align with the Michigan Merit curriculum. The Committee requests that a digital SLR camera and new laptop computer be purchased for the Yearbook class in order to facilitate page layout and photo selection. The literature/grammar program is presented at an overall cost of \$50,278.

7.2 MME, Graduation Report, Report Card Grades, LMC Report

Mr. Schroeder reported that Michigan Merit Exam scores showed increases over last years scores in all areas with RV eleventh grade students scoring above the State average in the areas of Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Social Studies and scoring one percentage point below State average in Science.

The Lake Michigan College Report indicated college readiness increasing for RV graduates with good progress having been made in the area of Mathematics. LMC recommended expanding Early College opportunities and combining college credit with college readiness curricula.

Schroeder also reported that Chikaming Elementary, Three Oaks Elementary, and RV Middle School have all received grades of "A", and RVHS received a grade of "B" from the Michigan Department of Education. The graduation rate was also reviewed with RV showing an increase in it's' graduation statistics.

7.3 Addition to RV Hall of Fame

Schroeder presented a plaque of recognition to Jim Veldman, RV Cross Country and Track Coach from 1966-2004. Schroeder reviewed Coach Veldman's achievements and thanked him for his service to RV athletes. The plaque will be on display with others in the RV Hall of Fame trophy case. Congratulations, Mr. Veldman.

7.4 Entry Plan—William Kearney

Superintendent Kearney presented his 90-Day Entry Plan outlining five goals on which he will focus.

Capiak announced that a total of \$40,061 of preschool grant money has been spent to upgrade the playground at the Three Oaks Elementary School. She recommends that \$6,200 of unspent funds from the 2010-2011 budget along with \$5,800 of Chikaming Golden Apple money be used to upgrade the playground at the Chikaming Elementary School.

Schroeder reported that during the power outage last Wednesday, food from the freezer had been transported to Bridgman Schools. Wagner inquired about purchasing an emergency backup generator.

8.0 Board Committee Reports

8.1 Buildings and Grounds Committee Report

The Buildings and Grounds Committee met on June 22. Members present were: Michael Ehlert, Chairperson; Blane Hillman, and Ronald Petro.

8.1.1 Asbestos Removal

Asbestos removal will take place at the Chikaming campus in the boiler area on July 20 and 21.

8.1.2 Boiler Bids

Boiler bids will be opened on July 20, 2011.

8.1.3 Other

The Buildings and Grounds Committee will tentatively meet in the Superintendent's Conference Room on Thursday, July 21, 2011.

9.0 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10.0 Old Business

There was no old business.

11.0 New Business

11.1 Organization of the River Valley Board of Education for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

President German facilitated the election of Board of Education Officers and committee assignments for 2011-2012.

11.1.1 Election of Board of Education Officers

Motion by Knutel, supported by Hillman, to nominate Jon Corey German for the office of President of the River Valley Board of Education. All ayes. Motion carried

Motion by Knutel, supported by Hillman, to nominate Michael Ehlert for the office of Vice President of the River Valley Board of Education. All ayes. Motion carried.

German proposed that the position of Recording Secretary of the Board of Education be filled by the Superintendent's Secretary, Brenda Brunke. Compensation for the additional responsibility will be addressed.

Motion by Ehlert, supported by Hillman, to nominate Victoria Pfauth for the office of Secretary of the River Valley Board of Education. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hillman, supported by Ehlert, to nominate Ronald Petro for the office of Treasurer of the River Valley Board of Education. All ayes. Motion carried.

11.1.2 Appointment of Membership to Standing Board Committees

President German appointed trustees to the River Valley Board of Education Standing Committees.

11.1.2.1 Buildings and Grounds Committee

The following trustees were appointed to the Buildings and Grounds Committee:

Michael Ehlert—Chairperson
Blane Hillman
Ronald Petro

11.1.2.2 Curriculum/Policy Committee

The following trustees were appointed to the Curriculum/Policy Committee:

Vickie Wagner—Chairperson
Fred Knutel
Victoria Pfauth

11.1.2.3 Finance Committee

The following trustees were appointed to the Finance Committee:

Ronald Petro—Chairperson
Michael Ehlert
J. C. German

11.1.2.4 Personnel Committee

The following trustees were appointed to the Personnel Committee:

Fred Knutel—Chairperson
J. C. German
Victoria Pfauth

11.1.3 Appointment of Representative and Alternate to the Berrien/Cass County School Board Association

Trustee Knutel was appointed Representative to the Berrien/Cass County School Board Association. Trustee Petro was appointed as the alternate member.

11.1.4 Appointment of Board Designated Hearing Officer

President German will serve as the Board Designated Hearing Officer.

11.1.5 Selection and Designation of Bank Depositories

Motion by Petro, supported by Ehlert, to name the following institutions as Designated Bank Depositories:

Chase Bank, Bridgman, Michigan
Chemical Bank Shoreline, Three Oaks, Michigan
Fifth Third Bank, Three Oaks, Michigan
Honor Credit Union, St. Joseph, Michigan
Horizon Bank, Three Oaks, Michigan
Michigan Liquid Asset Fund Plus, Lansing, Michigan
United Federal Credit Union, Stevensville, Michigan
Berrien Community Foundation, St. Joseph, Michigan.

All ayes. Motion carried.

11.1.6 Consider Approval of General Legal Counsel and Independent Auditor for the District

Motion by Wagner, supported by Knutel, to approve the use of Thrun Law Firm, P.C. as General Legal Counsel and the firm of Schaffer & Layher Certified Public Accountants as Independent Auditors for the River Valley School District for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. All ayes. Motion carried.

11.1.7 Appoint Negotiation Team Board Representatives

Trustees German and Pfauth were appointed as Board of Education Representatives to the negotiation team.

11.1.8 Appointment of MASB Legislative Liaison and Alternate

Trustee Knutel was appointed MASB Legislative Liaison; Trustee Pfauth was appointed as the alternate member.

11.2 Consider Approval of Student Tuition Rates for 2011-2012

Motion by Knutel, supported by Wagner, to approve Student Tuition Rates for the 2011-2012 school year at the rate of \$2,500 per year for out-of-state students and \$1.00 for in-state students if they come to River Valley from outside of the School of Choice Window.

11.3 Consider Approval of the Accounts Payable for July, 2011, and the Treasurer's Report for June, 2011

Motion by Petro, supported by Hillman, to approve the Accounts Payable for July, 2011, and the Treasurer's Report for June, 2011. All ayes. Motion carried.

11.4 Consider Approving Secondary Language Arts Curriculum

Motion by Wagner, supported by Knutel, to accept the Prentice Hall Secondary Language Arts Program as presented by the Language Arts Department. All ayes. Motion carried.

11.5 Accept Donation for Healthy Steps Program

Motion by Wagner, supported by Ehlert, to accept with thanks the donation of \$530.00 to the River Valley Healthy Steps Program from Linda and Barry Patejdl of Sawyer Garden Center.

12.0 Items for Discussion Only

Wagner commented on programs funded through grants from The Pokagon Fund; programs include field trips, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and Junior Achievement. She also asked that we look at community leaders to help support local families in need.

Hillman commented on the success of the Sunshine League Softball Tournament.

Schroeder commented on the need to go from two sections of Kindergarten to three. The resignation of a fourth grade teacher was announced.

13.0 Hearing of Persons Present

Community member Sue Strieter thanked the Board for supporting the Healthy Steps Program and commented on how she is pursuing a farm to school program.

Mrs. Clark commented on the involvement of RV students in the Three Oaks Community Garden Project.

14.0 Adjournment

Motion by Petro, supported by Hillman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria A. Pfauth, Secretary,
River Valley Board of Education